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Magazine Section.

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NINETY-THIRD YEAR.

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

Girl Friends Vowed to Marry on the Same Day.

CHILDHOOD'S PROMISES KEPT BY THESE TWO BRIDES.

The Fulfillment a Romance of Real Life.



WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

A romance in real life was realized on July 11 last, when by marrying within an hour of each other two girls kept the vow they had made to each other as little children. The brides of the occasion were Miss Martha Bussman and Miss Elizabeth Sweeney and the mutual promises which they fulfilled was to the effect that they would be married at the same time or else with one acting as bridesmaid for the other.

The promise was made when both were school children attending the Webster School, on Eleventh and Clinton streets. They were always greatly attached to each other and were inseparable companions, both having much the same tastes and trend of character. Childhood they made numerous promises to each other, these for the most part affecting the immediate future, and they took an intense pride in the fulfillment of these promises to the letter.

When they were about 12 and 13 years old respectively, it was only natural that their conversation should turn on their ideals in the line of heroes, and from this it was an easy step to the discussion of what requisites each expected in the men of their choice, who should some day become their husbands. The thought of matrimony at that time, however, naturally suggested that, should one get married, the other would be left out in the cold, so to speak, and that this would be incompatible with their plans of eternal friendship and companionship. The pride which they took in the keeping of their promises suggested to them a means of eliminating much of the

bitterness of separation in later life, when marriage might make separation necessary. This plan was to make a vow that whichever was first engaged should wait until her friend was likewise engaged, and that they should either be married at the same time or with one acting as the bridesmaid for the other. The promise was solemnly sworn to by each, and the sincerity of each is noticeable from the fact that they kept their word, although circumstances arose in after life which would have made many disregard a promise made when a child of 12.

While still at the Webster School, Elizabeth Sweeney first met the boy who afterwards was to become her husband. He had come to this country from Germany, his birthplace, and was at that time about 15 years old. He was sent to the Webster School by his relatives and was frequently thrown with Miss Sweeney, although at that time neither had the faintest attraction for the other. Miss Sweeney was of the vivacious Irish type and found little to interest her in the staid German boy, who at that time was still struggling with the difficulties of the English language. As for Miss Bussman, her husband-to-be had not yet appeared upon the scene.

After finishing their course at school, Miss Sweeney and Herman Schaub did not see each other for some years and, if the truth must be told, did not think about each other while parted, each having her mind

occupied with other matters. Schaub had entered business at the close of his school career and for some years stuck steadily to work, paying little attention to the other sex. As for Miss Sweeney, she was engaged in a more sentimental occupation, for she met at this time a young man who seemed to fill all the requisites she had set down mentally as necessary to a husband, and their courtship progressed while Schaub was working steadily away in the Sling Iron Company, where he still is. So well did Miss Sweeney and the other young man suit each other that they finally became engaged and the accepted lover was persistent in begging for an early marriage. But the promise which Elizabeth had made her friend to wait until both were engaged held her back and she steadily declined to marry until Martha Bussman was likewise ready to take a husband.

Although the latter young lady had offers in the meanwhile, she could not make up her mind whom to wed. She disliked to hold her friend to a promise which was made so long before, but Miss Sweeney steadily refused to be released from her pledge. Her lover begged her to accept Miss Bussman's assurance that the promise was no longer binding, but she replied that

RICHARD HARDING DAVIS
IN THE TRANSVAAL.

IN THIS SECTION

FRANK G. CARPENTER
...IN THE PHILIPPINES.